

Die Starback Zwillinge

The Starback Twins

Jennifer Schäfers

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Ferienspaß mit Julie und Robin

Vacation Fun with Julie and Robin

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Part 2 / Teil 2

The Starback Twins

Vacation Fun With Julie And Robin

English Version / englische Fassung

Preface

Dear Readers,
dear Children and Kids,

This fictitious story dealing with a family called Starback is supposed to be entertaining you in a jolly way primarily. The twins Julie and Robin Starback have a good heart. They tend to turn out to be heroes in some certain situations. With their endearing nature they often play tricks, which help other people sometimes. Other tricks are simply played just for fun only without wanting to hurt anybody. Even the identities of the human figures Lena, Pontus, Julie and Robin Starback are fictitious. I have searched those identities in the worldwide web via Google, but they haven't been listed in this most used search engine. So if there is a real identity of one of those names somewhere in this world, it is an outright happenstance. The places where this story happens, however, are authentic and chosen via Google Maps.

The character of Julie Starback is fictitious. But I have named her for my eldest daughter Julie Marielle. When I had made up the twin brother Robin, I remembered my first pregnancy while writing. Then my husband and I regret that we didn't have twins. As it wasn't visible until shortly before birth, that we had expected a little girl, we had chosen two names for our baby: Julie Marielle for a girl and Robin Alexander for a boy. So if we would have twins (boy and girl), we really would have had a pair of twins called Julie and Robin.

Three of those tricks really had happened sometime. All the other tricks are fictitious or funny stories of my grandfathers, father and brother and should rather not be tried at home, because of injury risk and other possible consequences.

I hope that you will learn something in this book, and I wish you a lot of fun reading it.

Love,

Jennifer Schäfers

The Last School Day

They are in a holiday mood. They are looking forward to their summer vacation hugely. It's their last school day.

The twins Julie and Robin Starback from Trollhättan in Sweden are raring to go home finally with their brilliant school certificates. Their time in the elementary school is ending today. So there haven't been given any lessons, but the pupils have been dismissed solemnly.

After summer vacation they will go to the grammar school. Their teacher Mrs Holmer isn't very angry about Robin anymore for today, at that he has hidden a dripping wet whoopee cushion under a thin brown cloth on the teacher's chair. Normally he would be kept in after school for an hour. Even so the fart's sound has been echoing through the whole classroom, and Mrs Holmer's skirt has been really wet. That's enough reason to make her face color up to her eyes. All the kids have been screaming with laughter.

When Mrs Holmer runs out of the classroom distressed because of her wet skirt, there ain't any dry eye left. Robin and Julie have laid their heads onto the table. They are nearly not able to breathe

because of laughter. They can only gasp.



But a little bit later Mrs Holmer returns. She simply has tied her summer jacket around her hips covering her wet skirt. But surprisingly the feared tirade doesn't happen.

There is still one lesson left, and Mrs Holmer immediately starts to hand out the school certificates. Obviously she's glad to dismiss especially the Starback twins to the grammar school. The twins always have a very good school certificate. Even when they loved to play tricks at

school, however, their school performance has always been OK. Their grade point average has been rare at intervals less than 92%.

Regarding their form teacher they really have been very lucky. She never has done any judgmental performance ratings. They absolutely appreciated that. So they always stuck with their teacher, if she ever was in an important situation. That's why Mrs Holmer never has taken their tricks really personally.

The elementary school teachers seem to hope, that the twins would be much busier at the grammar school, so that they won't have any time for playing any tricks anymore. Only time will tell, whether it will really be like that.

Now no teacher ever guesses, that Robin will be one of the most favorite grammar school teachers, and Julie will be a very popular pediatrician one day.

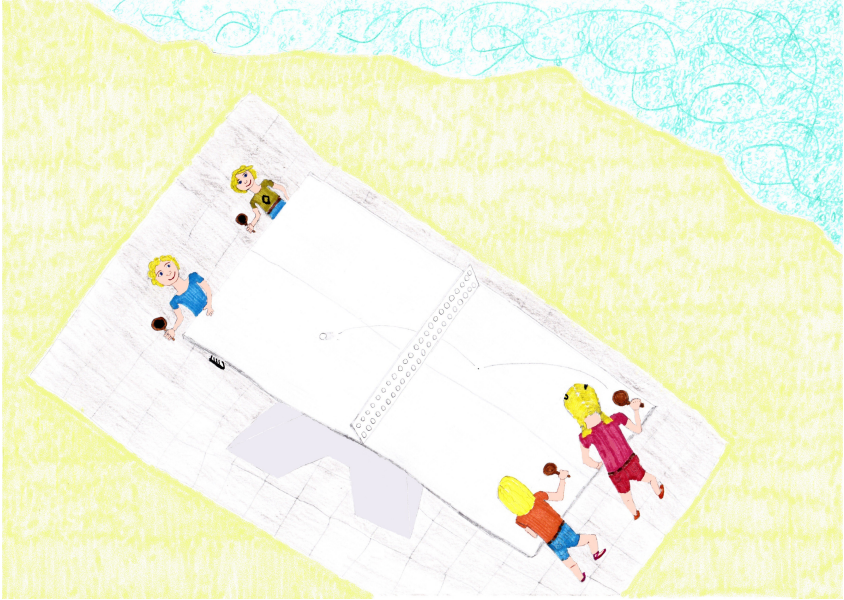
The bell rings. School has just finished. Vacations are starting now. Quickly all the pupils get their school bags ready, say good-bye to their teachers and run home.

The twins are a little bit sad about leaving the

elementary school now. As a matter of fact their teacher has always been their secret hero, because she also had a lot of understanding for their tricks despite of releasing tirades. She has always been a forgiving nature. She never has told their parents on open school days. Every time Julie and Robin have taken their fine, those matters have always been done. They always had great regard for their form teacher for that.

The twins are raring to tell their parents Lena and Pontus about their last school day. Robin hasn't received his whoopee cushion back. It has been thrown away immediately. He doesn't regret for it. He can make a new one anytime.

Now the kids would like to play table tennis on the playground, while their parents get all the suitcases ready for their holidays.



They want to enjoy this day with their friends extensively, because they will fly with their parents to Nerja / Andalusia for the next three weeks tomorrow in the very early morning. Nerja is a town in Spain, which is situated directly at the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Trip To Spain

The alarm clock says 3:00 am. The Starbacks must get up now and get ready for their trip.

Full of anticipation and enthusiasm the family get out of their beds and prepare their provision.

Then the bell rings. Grand-uncle Björn has just arrived to pick them up. So they happily put their suitcases and bags into his car and strike off to the airport.

As the Starbacks depart Trollhättan the way to the airport isn't very far.

After the handover of their suitcases they still have a plenty of time to walk, to have breakfast and to do a lot of things more at the airport.

On the airport deck they sit down waiting for the start of check-in. Julie and Robin play happily with joy there.

Suddenly Julie finds a shrew mouse. What sweet! Immediately Julie takes this little mouse in her hand. She has taken this cute animal to her heart quickly. But she doesn't want to show it to her parents and to Robin. Her mum Lena is afraid of

mice. She would forbid this mouse at once. And that's a no-go at all! So Julie hides it into her small handbag.



Now the check-in counter opens. The Starbacks do not need to wait long and come up rather soon. Julie has closed her handbag. Strangely this handbag hasn't been checked. So Julie takes the mouse into the waiting hall unnoticed, where all the passengers wait for boarding. But the family do not need to wait for this very long as well. The mouse is boarding, too. [...]

[...]

Day 17

This is a very nice day. The Starbucks have taken a place on the beach again to enjoy the sea.

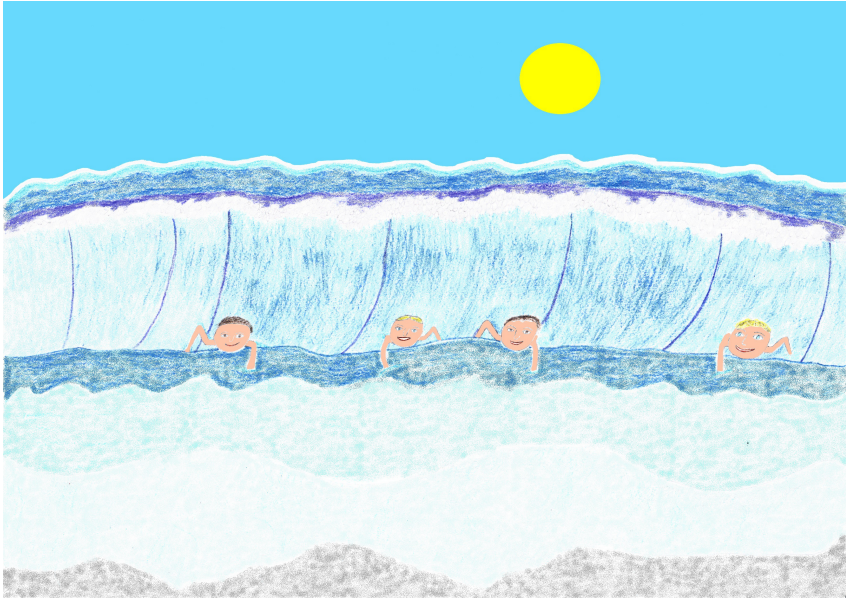
Today the sea isn't smooth. There are waves rushing to the shoreline, and the kids have a lot of fun playing in these waves. They know that they have to watch the sea continuously in order to react in the right way.

They enjoy jumping up, when a wave surges up to a wall of water of about one and a half meters high. They dive under, when a big wave comes rolling to the shore. In this way they let such a wave roll over them.

But they have much more fun, when a big wave already has surged up to a wall coming closer and closer and bends towards over the swimmers.

Then all the swimmers start crawling in front of such a wave and let this wave catch them. In this way the swimmers always get a very high speed at crawling to the shores.²

² **Caution:** Never go into the sea, when the waves are higher than max 6 feet and/or red flags are set up on a beach! Red flags forbid swimming in the sea because of life danger! Even if the sea is seemingly smooth, a red flag can forbid swimming because of *Rip-Currents* or sharks. Those treacherous dangers are not visible for tourists, who don't know the place. Only green flags allow swimming in the sea. However, even then there's no 100% guarantee of safety. Natural waters are too incalculable. Identification of rip-currents are explained in the appendix and here: <http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov/> and <http://beachsafe.org.au/surf-ed/ripcurrents> (with videos)



Suddenly two smaller Roma boys drift around on the beach and seemingly beg for money. As the Starbucks have already had their experiences with one Roma man³, they hide all their beach bags at once. They have learnt by conversations with other

³ Romas are a small group of people, which are spread all over the world. Most of them lead a nomadic life. Only some very few ones have settled down somewhere. They always have to fight against the common and general suspicion of stealing intentions again and again. It's a fact that there isn't known a lot about those people in general public knowledge. Sadly only the bad experiences a lot of tourists make with some few confidence tricksters of the Roma are known. This always gives oxygen to general prejudices, which try to justify hard discrimination. However, one does not need to be a Roma to be a confidence trickster. One can also be such one as a tourist or a citizen of a country. Generally the Roma are a very proud community. They quiet rightly fight against been called gypsies pejoratively. They have always been Roma and they insist on their right to be accepted and respected as an equal community. In history this group of people have suffered as much misery as the Native Americans. You will find more information about Romas in the appendix and on this website (with animation video):

http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/gypsies-roma-travellers-animated-history_

tourists, that they are not the only ones. So they watch those two boys very carefully now. Even the kids come out of the water now and watch out for those Roma boys.

Then the Romas have discovered some sun loungers which are used but not supervised at the moment. Those people seem to be swimming in the sea.

As soon as the boys go there, everybody seems to be sure that, they really want to steal something. At once the group of kids rush to them and seemingly invite them to play. They do it in such a friendly way, that these two Roma boys join this group after a short hesitation. But the two boys continue keeping an eye on that unsupervised place. So it isn't very easy for the tourist children, to get their full attention at playing. [...]

[...] During having dinner at the beach restaurant the Starbucks learn in a chance conversation with a Danish couple, that they know those two Roma boys. The beach place which wasn't supervised, was their place.

That Roma family has settled in Nerja. They have a small but very successful and popular tailor shop on the other side of the road. This couple has

made friends with them some few years ago. Those two children had arranged to meet this Danish couple in order to spend the day on the beach with them. They had brought a surprise for them. But because of the trick they unfortunately couldn't present it to them.

The behaviour, which looked like begging, was simply only a joke by those two Roma kids. They always do it, when they arrive on the beach. They have fun poking fun at the general prejudice the tourists have against Romas.

Now the twins are very sorry about the misunderstanding and their trick. They immediately promise to compensate for it.

The next day the six kids have put together some of their pocket money and bought a small gift.

Now they go to the tailor shop. ...
[...]

Appendix

I. Rip Currents



Image by Jenny Menzel

Rip currents are one of the most treacherous dangers in the sea. They occur when waves rush to the shoreline and the water flows back out to sea through darker and deeper channels. There are different types of rips, such as Fixed Rips, Flash Rips, Topographic Rips and Mega Rips.

The speed of the rip currents depends on the height of the waves rushing to the shore. So if the waves are higher, the rip currents flow faster. If the waves are lower, the rip

currents flow slower. But even slower rips of about 0,5 to 1 meter per second make it almost impossible to stand or to stay in one place. Flash rips and Mega rips even reach a speed of about 2 – 3 meters per second and stronger. This is more than an Olympic swimmer is able to make.

Not only every beach can be effected by rip currents every time, but also inland lakes!

Rip currents are not an undertow. They do not pull you under water. They only pull you out to sea for about 100 meters, take you away from the beach.

You can spot a rip current at the following signs:

- *deeper darker water*
- *fewer breaking waves*
- *sometimes sandy colored water extending beyond the surf zone*
- *debris or seaweed*
- *sometimes it's easier to look for where the waves are breaking consistently, and then look to each side where they don't break consistently. That's the rip current!*

[...]

II. Gypsies, Roma, Travellers: An Animated History

June 5, 2013 by Adrian Marsh Early Childhood Program, Roma Initiatives Office 70 comments

Editor's note: The terms Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers are broad titles which describe diverse and different communities and are used in this article and film as general descriptors for the purpose of clarity. For a fuller discussion of these terms see the comments section below and Roma explainer at right.

The Roma are a people like any other, dispersed across many lands and territories over time and circumstance.

Europe is home to 10–12 million Roma and Travellers, yet many Europeans are unable to answer the basic question, “Who are the Roma?” Even fewer can answer questions about their history.

It is a complex and highly contested narrative, partly because the “Roma” are not a single, homogeneous group of people. They can include Romanichals in England; Kalé in Wales and Finland; **Travellers in Ireland** (who are not Roma), Scotland, Sweden, and Norway; Manouche from France; Gitano from Spain; Sinti from Germany,

Poland, Austria, and Italy; Ashakli from Kosovo; Egyptians from Albania; Beyash from Croatia; Romanlar from Turkey; Domari from Palestine and Egypt; Lom from Armenia, and many others. It is also partly because many of these groups have differing narratives of their history and *ethnogenesis*(their origins as an ethnic group).

The Roma do not follow a single faith, but are Catholic Manouche, Mercheros, and Sinti; Muslim Ashkali and Romanlar; Pentecostal Kalderash and Lovari; Protestant Travellers; Anglican Gypsies; and Baptist Roma. There are variations in practises associated with birth, marriages and death, yet also linked cultures that display subtle but distinctive patterns or, as a Roma preacher once described it, “many stars scattered in the sight of God.”

Yet there *is* much that is shared between different groups of Roma. Roma have a common lexicon in differing dialects of *Rromanëš*, the Romani language. There are common notions around cleanliness codes and behaviors regarding what is *Rromano* (to behave with dignity and respect as a Roma person) and what can be seen as part of *Rromanipé* or the “Romani world view.”

[...]

Text from Website

<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/gypsies-roma->

[travellers-animated-history](#) (with animation video)

Text: Adrian Marsh